(c) whether Government have identified some more stations in the State for electrification & renovation in 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure proposed to be spent on these stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Six Railway stations in Gujarat have been undertaken for electrification. Three stations namely Barwala Road, Pudgam Ganeshpura and Jaliva were electrified during 1994-95. In the remaining three stations, namely Piplee, Lorweda and Chhatral the work is planned to be completed in 1995-96.

As regards renovation of station buildings, works of improvements through beautification at Porbunder and provision of a new building in lieu of the old building at Lakhabawal were taken up. Work at Porbunder has been completed.

(c) and (d) All the eligible stations as per extant norms have been electrified.

Work of provision of a new station building in lieu of the old building at Gandhinagar has been included in the Works Programme 1995-96 at a cost of Rs. 46.11 lakhs.

SC|ST Backward Classes in Gujarat

8102. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Government for allotment of stalls to Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes|Backward Classes at railway platforms;

(b) the number and details of the stalls allotted at railway platforms to these categories, category-wise, in the country, particularly in Gujarat, during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the quota for allotment of stalls to these categories in the near future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The basic critreia is capability, reputation, experience and track record of the party to render requisite standard of Catering services to the passengers. Preference is given to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribe candidates for allotment of catering/vending stalls at small and roadside stations.

(b) State-wise data is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Increase of rail routes in Gujarat

8103. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is lesser developed in regard to the rail routes per thousand square kilometers of area;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the said routes during the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A new BG line from Kapadvanj to Modasa (60.50 kms) has been taken up with an allotment of Rs. 2 crores during the financial year 1995-96 for this work.

Proposal to run passenger and goods trains on separate routes

8104. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: